



# Mary Lazich

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**Wisconsin State Senator**  
Senate District 28

**Assembly Committee on Transportation**  
**Senate Bill 341 Testimony**  
**February 7, 2012**

During 2009, the Legislature approved a law mandating a person may not open motor vehicle doors on a highway without first taking necessary precaution to ensure they will not interfere with traffic or endanger any person.

After this bill became law, I was contacted by David Schmidt. David is a constituent as well as a traffic officer for the State of Wisconsin. He shared with me concerns from law enforcement that the new traffic law will put police at an increased and unnecessary risk of liability.

Police routinely leave their car door open during highway traffic stops. This practice is necessary for the safety of officers and emergency personnel. However, this practice conflicts with the 2009 law.

Under this bill, law enforcement, fire fighters, and emergency medical personnel are explicitly allowed to leave open any vehicle door while the vehicle is stopped and the person is performing official duties.

This is simple, common-sense legislation that should garner broad support. Thank you for your attention.

